

ected Class President and served as a Regimental Commander in the year of his graduation in 1975. Ensign Whitehead first trained new Cadets of the Class of 1979 as a Summer Ensign at the Coast Guard Academy. He then went to Governor's Island, New York, to serving two years aboard the cutter MOR-GENTHAU as Anti-Submarine Officer, Weapons Officer and Deck Watch Officer. He later served as Executive Officer of Marine Safety Office, Albany, New York. There, for the first, but not last time in his career, he led the Coast Guard's response to an environmental crisis when he was second in command during the first "Superfund" cleanup in the nation's history.

After earning a Master's Degree in Public Administration at the State University of New York at Albany, Lieutenant Commander Whitehead and his family accepted their first tour in Washington, D.C., where they spent some 12 years during his career. There, he helped negotiate the worldwide implementation of international MARPOL Treaty at the International Maritime Organization in London and subsequently wrote the U.S. federal regulations to enforce them in the United States. When the EXXON VALDEZ disaster occurred in 1989, Lieutenant Commander Whitehead was assigned for two weeks to assist the Admiral in charge of the cleanup. He ultimately stayed for almost a year as an adviser to the Federal On-Scene Coordinator and later wrote the federal report detailing the government's response and recommendations that came from the lessons learned from this historic event. Following the EXXON VALDEZ response in Alaska, Lieutenant Commander Whitehead returned to Washington, D.C., to assist in implementing the newly passed Oil Pollution Act of 1990 and later served as a Program Reviewer for the Coast Guard's budget where he was responsible for program oversight and development for almost one-third of the Coast Guard's operating budget. He also led the Coast Guard's efforts with the new presidential administration's transition team in 1992.

Again in the field from 1993 to 1996, Commander Whitehead was assigned as Deputy Group Commander of Group Woods Hole, Massachusetts, where his group responded to more than 4,000 law enforcement boardings and 5,400 search and rescue cases resulting in over 450 lives saved. In 1996, Commander Whitehead was selected to study for a year with 17 select military officers as a National Security Fellow at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government. From that elite educational experience he again found himself in Washington working for the Commandant of the Coast Guard as the Chief of Strategic Planning for the U.S. Coast Guard. There his team developed the Coast Guard's strategic vision, Coast Guard 2020 and pioneered a scenario-based planning process to develop long-range strategies to plot the Coast Guard's future.

It was not long afterward that Captain Whitehead was in command in Boston as Commanding Officer of Marine Safety Office Boston. There he managed the explosive growth of Liquefied Natural Gas transits through the port, Sail Boston 2000 and led the federal response to the largest oil spill in Boston's history: the 2000 Tank Vessel POSAVINA spill, which put over 59,000 gallons of fuel oil in the harbor. Under his leadership the Coast Guard collected an unprece-

ded 89% of the oil from that near-pristine waterway that had just undergone a \$4 billion, 10-year water quality improvement project.

In 2001, Captain Whitehead was transferred early to begin his close association with the Gulf of Mexico when he was selected as Chief of Staff of the Eighth Coast Guard District. There he managed the day-to-day operations of a 200 person staff and 9,000 Coast Guard men and women located at sub-units throughout the heartland of America and the Gulf of Mexico. He was there only a few months when the attacks of 9/11 occurred and, as acting District Commander, he personally led the federal maritime homeland security response on the inland waterways, Gulf of Mexico ports and offshore oil and gas fields. Recalling over 800 Reservists to protect the Nation's busiest ports and the energy gateway to America, he reorganized the District staff to include the first Homeland Security staff element in the Coast Guard.

Returning to Washington in 2003, Captain Whitehead assumed the reigns of the Coast Guard's relations with Capitol Hill as the Chief of Congressional Affairs. There he managed some 25 young Coast Guard men and women at DOT Headquarters, in the House of Representatives and the Senate, and organized over 100 Congressional and staff delegation visits to the field. It was there I met Captain Whitehead as he worked the many policy and budget issues including the growing Deep-water acquisition project, homeland security and port security issues.

While Chief of Congressional Affairs, he was promoted to Rear Admiral in 2004 and officially became the Assistant Commandant for Governmental and Public Affairs. As the heart-rending events of Hurricanes KATRINA and RITA unfolded in 2005, Admiral Whitehead ably represented the Coast Guard in Washington as a national spokesman alongside the Secretary of Homeland Security and provided numerous briefings to Members of Congress and Congressional committee staffs. In addition, he orchestrated an extraordinary and expansive media effort documenting the Coast Guard's historic response to that natural tragedy.

In 2006, Admiral Whitehead volunteered to return to New Orleans, this time to lead the Eighth Coast Guard District. Faced with the rebuilding of many Coast Guard facilities destroyed or damaged during the hurricanes, he prepared the staff for more hurricanes and tropical storms, as well as the ubiquitous flooding from the inland river system. During his tenure, the Coast Guard responded flawlessly to over 8,100 search and rescue cases. Then in 2008, during the fifth most active weather year since 1944, Admiral Whitehead led his Eighth District team through Tropical Storms EDOUARD, FAY and HANNAH, as well as Hurricanes DOLLY, GUSTAV and IKE in which 220 people were saved. In the largest oil spill in many years in New Orleans when the motor vessel TINTOMARA and the tug MEL OLIVER collided on the Mississippi river, Sector New Orleans and the Eighth District responded immediately and effectively, partially opening the port to traffic within days and fully opening it within two weeks to prevent a multi-billion dollar economic loss. The Midwest floods of Iowa and Missouri in 2008 also set records, only to be surpassed in 2009 by the flooding of the Red River of the North in which the Coast Guard rescued by helicopter and small boats over 105 people.

Admiral Whitehead has earned numerous military decorations during his years of active duty, including the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Coast Guard Commendation medal, the 9/11 medal, as well as numerous unit commendations and team awards. He has also received a number of other honors, including being named the Distinguished Alumnus in Public Administration & Policy for 2007 at the State University of New York at Albany. He is also an Honorary Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard, a recognition which the Admiral is most proud of. Over the years, Admiral Whitehead has also been able to serve his alma maters as a Director of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy Alumni Association and from 1999–2003 as a member and Chairman of the Alumni Executive Council at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, which represents more than 20,000 alumni in 120 nations.

This week, Admiral Whitehead will leave his post in New Orleans and retire after 38 years of honorable service to the Coast Guard and the Nation. He will be missed as a military congressional affairs alumnus in the United States House of Representatives and Senate. It has been my pleasure to work with Admiral Whitehead over the years. On behalf of all who have also been able to work with him, we wish Admiral Whitehead, his wife Martha, whom I have had the pleasure of knowing for many years, and his two wonderful daughters Christine, a medical student at the Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine in Blacksburg, Virginia and Katherine, a fine art photography major who will graduate this year from the Corcoran College of Art and Design here in Washington, the best in their future endeavors.

HONORING RIVERDALE HIGH SCHOOL LADY WARRIORS ON WINNING THE 2009 TSSAA CLASS AAA GIRLS' STATE SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

**HON. BART GORDON**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 2, 2009*

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 2009 Riverdale High School Lady Warriors for winning their first TSSAA Class AAA State Softball Championship.

In a best of three series, the Lady Warriors fought back after a game-one loss and beat Beech High School's Lady Buccaneers two games in a row to secure the tournament championship. They showed tenacity and perseverance to emerge as victors, and finished the season with an overall record of 47–7.

I know the parents of these young ladies must be very proud, and much credit is due to them for their many hours of support, attending practices and games, helping with fundraisers and volunteering when needed.

I commend Riverdale High School Head Coach Jeff Breeden and Assistant Coaches Dennis Weaver and Falon Catalano, Athletic Director Barry Messer, and Principal Tom Nolan.

I congratulate each player of the 2009 AAA State Champion Lady Warrior Softball Team:

Kacie Walker, Amber Castleman, Amber Bailey, Anne Russell, Samantha Hoadwonic, Megan Chesney, Hannah Porter, Alice O'Brien, Maria Frebis, Morgan Lester, Courtney Clark, Breana Thomas, Donté Souviney, Brittany Pendergrast, Ashia Terry, Jessica Ayers, Mary Beth Canterberry, Megan Kelley, Taylor Lee, Casey Clark, Kelsey Choate, Dené Souviney, Leslie Cope, Tara Greer, Amy Russell, Megan Quinn, Rachel Albritton, and Katie Brown.

#### IN HONOR OF JAY LENO

#### HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 2, 2009*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. Jay Leno, whose comedic talent charmed audiences across the nation, as he steps down as host of the Tonight Show after seventeen seasons. As Americans tuned in every night, Jay's hilarious insights and observations whisked away our worries, if only for a brief time.

Jay began his career in night clubs across the country, perfecting his stand-up routine. As his career took off, he earned small roles in TV and film, but hit the comedic goldmine in the early eighties when he was invited to perform on The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson and Late Night with David Letterman. For many years, Jay served as Johnny Carson's permanent guest host. Following Carson's retirement, Jay debuted as the new host of the Tonight Show on May 25, 1992. His work has been honored numerous times with several awards and nominations, including his Emmy win in 1995.

Beyond his professional success and achievements, Jay Leno's character has not changed. A humble man with a compassionate heart and strong sense of responsibility toward others, both Jay and his wife, Mavis Nicholson Leno, have consistently avoided the fanfare and flashing lights of celebrity, working behind the scenes to further the causes of many charities and humanitarian efforts. Mavis is the Chair of the Feminist Majority's Foundation's Campaign to Help Afghan Women and Girls, and has been an outspoken advocate and activist on behalf of women's rights in America and around the world. Jay has consistently invested his time, talents and resources on behalf of several charities. He has a record of supporting our men and women in the military, and has made countless free appearances to audiences made up of families and individuals in need, including most recently, laid-off auto workers in Detroit, Michigan.

Madam Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Mr. Jay Leno as he steps down as host of the Tonight Show with Jay Leno. From his commitment to social service and various causes behind the scenes, to making us laugh day after day, Jay Leno's contributions continue to lift the heart and soul of our entire nation, one joke and one kind gesture at a time.

#### HONORING THE HISTORY OF THE MAD RIVER AND LAKE ERIE RAILROAD

#### HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 2, 2009*

Mr. JORDAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I am honored to commend to the House the work of the Champaign County Bicentennial Historical Marker Committee and the West Central Ohio Port Authority to promote the history of the Mad River and Lake Erie Railroad.

The Mad River and Lake Erie Railroad was chartered by the State of Ohio in 1832, making it both the first chartered railroad in Ohio and the first to be built west of the Allegheny Mountains. Groundbreaking ceremonies took place in 1835 in Sandusky, attended by General William Henry Harrison (the first of eight Presidents to hail from the Buckeye State) and Ohio Governor Joseph Vance.

By 1848, more than 130 miles of track were completed from Sandusky to Springfield at a cost of roughly \$1.75 million. Urbana resident John H. James, who served as treasurer of the railroad, was instrumental in securing lines of credit to fund rail construction and early operations of the line.

The rail line was eventually expanded to tie in with the Little Miami Railroad, allowing for continuous rail service from Lake Erie to the Ohio River through western Ohio.

After numerous mergers, the Mad River and Lake Erie Railroad ultimately became part of Conrail, which has since been divided between the Norfolk Southern Railway and CSX Transportation. The West Central Ohio Port Authority acquired portions of the old Mad River track in 1994 to ensure continued freight rail service between Bellefontaine and Springfield.

On June 6, two historical markers celebrating the history of the line will be dedicated in Urbana. I am honored to join the Champaign County Bicentennial Historical Marker Committee, the West Central Ohio Port Authority, and Bellevue's Mad River and Lake Erie Museum in commemorating this event.

#### HONORING THE MEMORY OF THOMAS R. ALLEN, JR.

#### HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 2, 2009*

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a great and respected Chicagoan, Thomas R. Allen, Jr., who recently passed away at the age of 85. Thomas Allen Jr. was a man who lived life to the fullest, and the friends and family he had are a testament to the quality of his character and the type of man he was.

Thomas R. Allen, Jr. was born on the 12th of February, 1924 on the West Side of the city of Chicago. He achieved his success in life through hard work and determination. He followed his own father into the bricklayers' trade after serving as a marine during World War II.

After his service, Tom became involved with Local 21 of the International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers. He held the

position of Midwest apprentice coordinator for the union for 35 years. He traveled the region to oversee the training of young people in his profession.

It was Tom's connection to and involvement in his community that his friends will remember. He was an active member of St. Eugene's Parish. Not only had he served as an usher for 55 years, he also served as a youth basketball coach and a member of the Big Brother program. He had a smile and kind word for everyone.

Tom's top priority was always his family and the love and support they provided him was most important in his life. In 1948 he married his high school sweetheart, Irene Feehan, and together the couple raised eight children. His family includes their daughter, Barbara Wiemhoff and her husband John, their daughter, Nancy Cullerton and her husband Tim, and their sons; Thomas III and his wife, Janis, James and his wife, Lin, Dan and his wife, Sue, Patrick and his wife, Laura, and Terrence and his wife, Jean; 26 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. After a long illness, Irene passed away in 1997.

Madam Speaker, Thomas R. Allen, Jr. ("the real Tom Allen") was an inspiration to all who knew him. I wish to express my deepest condolences to his family, and may God bless the Allen family and the memory of a man who was truly loved by his family, his friends, and his community.

#### FAA REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

#### HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 21, 2009*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 915) to amend title 49, United States Code, to authorize appropriations for the Federal Aviation Administration for fiscal years 2009 through 2012, to improve aviation safety and capacity, to provide stable funding for the national aviation system, and for other purposes:

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Chair, I am submitting the exchange of letters between Ways and Means Committee Chairman CHARLES B. RANGEL, Representative JOHN B. LARSON and myself regarding the tax treatment of fractionally-owned aircraft."

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

*Washington, DC, May 21, 2009.*

Hon. CHARLES B. RANGEL,  
Chairman, Committee on Ways & Means, Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN RANGEL: We write to you regarding the tax treatment of fractionally-owned aircraft and ask that you carefully consider this issue as you continue work on H.R. 915, the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2009.

Under current law, fractional aviation is treated as commercial aviation for taxation purposes. However, the Federal Aviation Administration treats fractional aviation as non-commercial, general aviation operations for regulatory purposes. We believe that the current Federal tax law should be modified so that, going forward, it properly reflects this regulatory treatment. In addition, we recommend that an appropriate adjustment